

TITLE: ACCESSORY FOR SHOELACES

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

(1) FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention generally relates to an accessory for shoes, and more particularly pertains to a cover means for collecting and storing the bows and ends of tied shoelaces while being attached to the shoes.

(2) DESCRIPTION OF THE PRIOR ART

There have been numerous patents granted in the field of accessories for shoelaces. Such as #4,553,293, #4,949,437, #5,335,400, #5,657,557, #6,000,111, #6,601,323, Des.#369,237 and Des. #356,675.

In US patent #4,553,293 the invention does secure the laces but it does not provide a collecting and storage for the bows and ends of shoe laces.

In US patent #4,949,437 the invention does secure the shoe laces but the bow and ends of the laces to flop.

In US patent #5,335,400 the invention does provide a collection and storage means but does not prevent the accessory from flopping around.

In US patent #5,657,557 the invention attaches to both the eyes and is secured to the back of the shoe. The loose ends of the shoelaces flop around.

In US patent #6,000,111 the invention does provide a shoelace containment factor. In this invention the fastener is attached to the laces themselves.

In US patent #6,601,323 the shoelaces are attached to the cover and then are secured by wrapping the ends of the cover to the back of the ankle.

In US Design patents #369,237 and #356,675 the covers do attach to the laces but still flop around.

SUMMARY OF THE PRESENT INVENTION

In view of the forgoing disadvantages inherent in the known types of accessories for shoelaces now present in the prior art, the present invention provides an improved cover with a safety factor for the shoelace eyes and lace ends by completely encapsulating these loose ends to both sides of the shoe. There are three models for the present invention. Each uses the same basic principal. As such, the general purpose of the present invention, which will be described subsequently in greater detail, is to provide a new and improved shoelace apparatus and method of use which has all the advantages of the prior art and none of the disadvantages.

To attain this, the present invention provides three models.

(1) The first cover, model #1, has two pieces, a left and right side for any shoe, which provide the same positioned apertures at the front end of each cover which accommodate the two lace ends so as to allow the lace ends to pass through the apertures and retain the cover to the laces. The shoe laces are then tied into a standard bow. The bow and the resulting tied shoelace end are both now folded inside the cover while a first attachment means, being a male part and a female part snap, are mated together thereby holding the bow and the tied shoelace end in place. The same scenario is provided for each side of the shoe. In this model the first attachment means is a male and female snap which are permanent attached to the cover. The back end of the cover has a second attachment means being the female side of the snap which is also permanently attached thereon the cover while the male end is permanently attached to the shoe itself.

1 This second attachment, female snap, attached to the cover mates together with the third attachment
2 means, being the male snap on the shoe, thereby creating the attachment means for the cover to the shoe.
3 Both sides of the shoe have the same cover arrangement and attachment means. Model #1 has its own
4 individual sequence of installation instructions and can be placed on any style shoe.

5 (2) The second cover, model #2, also consists of two lace covers as separate pieces; each piece
6 provides an aperture at the front end which accommodates the lace end by first allowing the lace to pass
7 through the aperture of the present invention and secondly retaining the cover to the laces. Each shoe
8 lace is now tied into the same standard bow with the same tied shoelace end. The resulting bows and the
9 remaining tied shoelace end are both now folded inside of the cover. In model #2 there is no snap means
10 such as seen in model #1. Instead, the cover is simply folded thereby automatically encapsulating the
11 bow and the tied shoelace end. The complete cover is folded over the side of the shoe and hangs inside.
12 In this model #2 a first attachment means being a "U" shaped clip is supplied which is forced over the
13 folded cover and the side of the shoe thereby securing the cover to the side of the shoe. Both sides of the
14 shoe have the same arrangement. Model #2 has its own individual sequence of installation instructions
15 and be placed on any style shoe.

16 (3) The third cover, model #3, has the exact same front end aperture means on the left and right side
17 along with the same bow and tied shoelace end scenario. The cover in this model #3 is made as a one
18 piece construction, instead of two pieces such as in model #1 and #2, which folds down into the shoe
19 itself whereby the arch and weight of the person's foot holds this cover model #3 in place. A clip mean
20 is not used in this model as the cover securing means. Instead, the first attachment means, the same as
21 the two piece snap means in model #1, is used to encapsulate the bow and tied shoelace end. One end
22 fits on the left side, while the other end fits on the left side of any style shoe. Model #3 has its own
23 individual sequence of installation instructions.

24 The common purpose of all three of the aforementioned models is to provide a means to accept and
25 retain the bow and tied shoelace end to both sides of a shoe, thereby providing a safety means so a
26 person will not trip and fall because of untied loose shoelaces. All three models prevent the shoelace
27 from coming loose and thereby untied while each of the three models are attachable to any style shoe.
28 The cover described in each model is made of a soft flexible material such as cloth, which may be
29 colored coordinated to match any shoe such as a dress or a sports shoe such as a running shoe wherein
30 the material may have a glow in the dark accent to help provide protection for runners. The three models
31 of the present invention succeed in providing an improvement over the prior art in this field. Further, an
32 option in the present invention is for the manufacturer of the shoe to make one or all of the models and
33 add the model directly to their shoe line. There has thus been outlined, rather broadly, the three models
34 of the invention in order that the detailed description thereof that follows may be better understood, and
35 in order that the present contribution to the art may be better appreciated. There are, of course, additional
36 features of the present invention that will be described hereinafter and which will form the subject
37 matter of the claims appended hereto.

38 In this respect, before explaining at least one embodiment of the present invention in detail, it is to be
39 understood that the present invention is not limited in its application to the details of construction and
40 the arrangement of the components set forth in the following description or illustrated in the drawings.
41 The invention is capable of other embodiments and of being practiced and carried out in various ways,
42 also, it is to be fully understood that the phraseology and terminology employed herein are for the
43 purpose of description and should not be regarded as limited.

44 As such, those skilled in the art will appreciate that the conception, upon which this disclosure is
45 based, may readily be utilized as a basis for the designing of other structures, methods and systems for
46 carrying out the several purpose of the present invention. It is important, therefore, that the claims be
47 regarded as including such equivalent constructions insofar as they do not depart from the spirit and
48 scope of the present invention.

1 Further, the purpose of the foregoing abstract is to enable the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and the
2 public generally, and especially the scientists, engineers and practitioners in the art who are not familiar
3 with patent or legal terms or phraseology, to determine quickly from a cursory inspection the nature and
4 essence of the technical disclosure of the present application. The abstract is neither intended to define
5 the invention of the application, which is measured by the claims, nor is it intended to be limited as to
6 the scope of the present invention in any way.

7 It is therefore an object of the present invention to provide a new and improved accessory for a shoe
8 which has the advantage of the prior art devices and none of the disadvantages.

9 It is another object of the present invention to provide a new and improved shoe accessory which
10 may be easily and efficiently manufactured and marketed.

11 It is a further object of the present invention to provide a new and improved shoe accessory which is
12 of a durable and reliable construction.

13 An even further object of the present invention is to provide a new and improved shoe accessory
14 which is susceptible of a low cost of manufacture with regard to both materials and labor, and which
15 accordingly is then susceptible of low prices of sale to the consuming public, thereby making such shoe
16 accessories economically available to the buying public.

17 Still yet another object of the present invention is to provide a new and improved shoe accessory
18 which provides I the apparatuses and methods of the prior art some of the advantages thereof, while
19 simultaneously overcoming some of the advantages normally associated therewith.

20 Still another object of the present invention is to provide a new and improved shoe accessory
21 operable from a novice's level.

22 Yet another object of the present invention is to provide a new and improved system for storing the
23 tied shoelace eyes and ends thereafter for security and safety.

24 These together with other objects of the present invention, along with the various features of novelty
25 which characterize the present invention, are pointed out with a particularity in the claims annexed to
26 and forming a part of this disclosure. For a better understanding of the present invention, its operating
27 and installation advantages and the specific objects attained by its uses, reference should be had to the
28 accompanying drawings and descriptive matter in which there are illustrated preferred embodiments of
29 the present invention.

30 31 32 33 34 **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

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36 The invention will be better understood and objects other than those set forth above will become
37 apparent when consideration is given to the following detailed description thereof. Such description
38 makes reference to the annexed drawings wherein:

39 **FIG. 1** is a drawing of the invention showing the left side cover of Model #1.

40 **FIG. 2** is a drawing of the invention showing the right side cover of Model #1.

41 **FIG. 3** is a detailed drawing of Model #1 showing the cover being attached by the snap means to the
42 side of the shoe.

43 **FIG. 4** is a drawing of the invention showing the left side cover of Model #2.

44 **FIG. 5** is a drawing of the invention showing the right side cover of Model #2.

45 **FIG. 6** is a detailed drawing of Model #2 showing the cover being attached by the clip means to the
46 side of the shoe.

47 **FIG. 7** is a drawing of the invention showing the one piece layout of Model #3.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

In Fig. 1 left side cover 1 of model #1 is shown with shoelace 3 and loose shoelace end 4 passing through aperture 5. Cover 1 is also shown with male snap 6 and female snap 7 which are snapped together thereby forming the finished attachment means for the left side cover 1 being used to fulfill the purpose of the present invention.. Female snap 8 is shown at the opposite or bottom end of cover 1. Fig. 2 shows the model #1 right side cover 2 with shoelace 3 and loose shoelace end 4 passing through aperture 5. Cover 1 is also shown with male snap 6 and female snap 7 which also snap together thereby forming the finished attachment means for the right side cover 2. Fig. 3 shows the cover 1 of model #1 with the female snap attachment means 8 attached there through cover 1 and aligned, so as to snap together, with male snap 9 which is attached to the side of shoe 12. Fig. 4 shows the left side cover 10 of model # 2 with aperture 5 therein with shoelace 3 and loose shoelace end 4 passing through aperture 5. Fig. 5 shows the right side cover 11 of model #2 with aperture 5 therein with shoelace 3 and loose shoelace end 4 passing through aperture 5. Fig. 6 shows clip 13 securing both sides of folded cover 10 to the side of shoe 12. Fig. 7 shows model #3 as a one piece constructed cover 14 with the wearer's foot 15 drawn in dotted lines so as to show the relationship of foot 15 to cover 14. The right and left side are shown with the same shoelace 3 and loose shoelace end 4 passing through aperture 5. Also shown is female snap means 7 with male snap means 6 on each side of cover 14.

As to the manner of usage and operation of the present invention, the same should be apparent from the above description. Accordingly, no further discussion relating to the manner of usage and operation will be provided.

With respect to the above description then, it is to be realized that the optimum dimensional relationships for the parts of the invention, to include variations in size, materials, shape, form, function and manner of operation, assembly and use, are deemed readily apparent and obvious to one skilled in the art, and all equivalent relationships to those illustrated in the drawings and described in the specification are intended to be encompassed by the present invention.

Therefore, the foregoing is considered as illustrative only of the principles of the invention. Further, since numerous modifications and changes will be readily occur to those skilled in the art, it is not desired to limit the invention to the exact construction and operation shown and described, and accordingly, all suitable modifications and equivalents may be resorted to, falling within the scope of the invention.

What is claimed as being new and desired to be protected by Letters Patent of the United States is as follows:

- (1) An accessory for shoelaces comprising three model combinations:
 - (a) model #1 comprising in combination;
 - a two piece shoelace cover for one shoe;
 - an aperture in each said piece of said cover;
 - a first attachment means attached to each said piece of said cover;
 - a second attachment attached means to each said piece of said cover;
 - a third attachment means attached to said shoe; and
 - (b) model #2 comprising in combination;
 - a two piece shoelace cover for one shoe;
 - an aperture in each said piece of said cover;
 - a first attachment means for each said piece of said cover; and
 - (c) model #3 comprising in combination;
 - a one piece shoelace cover for one shoe;
 - an aperture in both sides of said cover;
 - a first attachment means in both sides of said cover; and